

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for determining spare capacity for a video and data network
2 from a network element database comprising:
3 receiving a request for spare capacity in the video and data network, wherein
4 the request comprises a service area identifier;
5 identifying equipment to check for spare capacity from the service area
6 identifier;
7 checking the network element database to determine if the identified
8 equipment has spare data and video capacity; and
9 if the equipment has spare data and video capacity, calculating spare video and
10 data capacity for the equipment.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the video and data network comprises
2 a Digital Subscriber Line (xDSL) network.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the video and data network comprises
2 a Very high bit rate DSL (VDSL) network.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein calculating spare video/data capacity
2 for the equipment comprises calculating a number of video and data ports available minus a
3 number of video and data ports in use.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising determining possible
2 capacity for the equipment.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein possible capacity comprises possible
2 video/data ports.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein calculating spare video/data capacity
2 for the equipment comprises adding the possible video/data ports to the spare video/data
3 capacity calculation.

1 8. The method of claim 4, further comprising determining a number of
2 defective video/data ports.

- 1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein calculating spare video and data
2 capacity for the equipment comprises subtracting the number of defective video/data ports
3 from the spare video/data capacity calculation.
- 1 10. The method of claim 4, further comprising determining a number of
2 held and pending video service orders for the service area identifier.
- 1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein calculating spare video and data
2 capacity for the equipment comprises subtracting the number of held and pending video
3 service orders from the spare video/data capacity calculation.
- 1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein checking the network element
2 database to determine if the identified equipment has spare data and video capacity comprises
3 checking if the identified equipment has spare virtual video/data capacity.
- 1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein checking the network element
2 database to determine if the identified equipment has spare data and video capacity comprises
3 checking if the identified equipment has spare physical video/data capacity.
- 1 14. The method of claim 4, further comprising determining a number of
2 data only slots.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein calculating spare video and data
2 capacity for the equipment comprises returning the number of data only slots in the spare
3 capacity calculation.
- 1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising checking the network
2 element database to determine if the identified equipment telephony usage is at a maximum.